



Using Photographs to Support Your Care

Your GP practice may sometimes ask you to send a photograph to help assess your condition safely. This leaflet explains why we ask for an image, how to send it securely, and how we protect your information.

1. Why we may ask for a photograph

A photograph can help your clinician make a safe decision — especially for skin rashes, wounds, infections or new lumps.

2. Your privacy and consent

Your photograph becomes part of your confidential medical record. By sending a photograph, you consent to us viewing and storing it for your care. This includes sharing it with other healthcare professionals involved in your care if it is relevant (for example, if you have provided a photo of a skin condition and we need to ask a dermatologist for advice about it). We will always ask before using it for anything else.

3. How to take a good clinical photograph

Use a plain background, good lighting, hold the camera ~30cm away, ensure focus, and include a coin or ruler for scale.

4. How to send your photograph safely

Use only the secure link or NHS-approved system provided. Don't send images via personal email or social media.

For adults: do not send photos of intimate areas (genitals, buttock, breast area of women) unless a GP or nurse has asked you to do so, and you feel comfortable to send the photo. Even if a GP or nurse has asked for a photo (of any part of the body), it is always fine to say no.

For anyone under 18: do not send photos of intimate areas even with the knowledge and agreement of the person involved.

5. Who will see your photograph?

Only staff directly involved in your care will see your image.

6. Your rights

You can ask how your image is used, request a copy, or raise concerns at any time.

7. Keeping you safe online

Please do not upload clinical photographs to public social media platforms.

If you have questions, please contact the Practice Team, our Data Protection Officer, or our Caldicott Guardian.